

FOR RELEASE:
December 6, 2017

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
announces**



**Two-Week International Festival Celebrating Cuban Culture
Featuring Music, Dance, Theater, Visual Art, and More**

**More than 50 Performances and Events
Including 13 Free Millennium Stage Performances
and a Free Family Day**

**Taking Over the Kennedy Center
May 8–20, 2018**

(WASHINGTON)—For two weeks this spring, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will present ***Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World***, a festival celebrating the artistic richness that has emerged from this “island archipelago in the sun.” This unprecedented gathering of Cuban and Cuban American artists represents some of the world’s greatest from the island and the Diaspora. Curated by the same Kennedy Center team responsible for past international festivals, including the recent *IRELAND 100*, *IBERIAN*

SUITE, China, ARABESQUE, and maximum INDIA, Artes de Cuba highlights the profound artistic breadth and cultural influence of the island nation.

“Cuba is an exuberant mix of cultures—African, European, Caribbean, North and South American—that has shaped Cuban art for half a millennium,” said curator Alicia Adams, Vice President of International Programming and Dance at the Kennedy Center. “I am excited for Kennedy Center audiences to surround themselves with the abundant treasures of one of the most dynamic cultures in the world.”

Featuring some of Cuba’s finest artists and leading Cuban American creators, *Artes de Cuba* will inspire with more than 50 events over two weeks, encompassing the breadth and vibrancy of the island nation’s culture. In programming that spans music, dance, theater, film, fashion, and design, select highlights include:

- **The music of Cuba**, beginning with *Artes de Cuba Opening Festivities*, features singer **Omara Portuondo**, the grande dame of Cuban music and face of the legendary Buena Vista Social Club. From traditional *danzons* to classical master works and current island beats, additional music highlights include **Los Van Van**, the most recognized musical group in Cuba today; New York based Afro-Cuban jazz artist **Yosvany Terry**; and Miami-based, genre-defying **Aymée Nuviola**.
- **The movement of Cuba** includes the return of famed prima ballerina **Alicia Alonso** and her **Ballet Nacional de Cuba**, in programs marking the 40th anniversary of the company’s historic first tour to the U.S., which began at the Kennedy Center.
- **The theater of Cuba** features the acclaimed **Teatro el Público** and the award-winning **Argos Teatro** in stimulating Spanish-language productions.
- Leading **Cuban and Cuban American visual artists and designers** whose work defines the Cuban and international art scenes will offer a glimpse into the diverse visual mosaic that is at the heart of Cuban life. *Artes de Cuba* features installations by master painter and sculptor **Manuel Mendive**; painter, sculptor, and illustrator **Roberto Fabelo**; **José Parlá**, a multidisciplinary artist whose work has been commissioned by institutions around the world; and **Celia Ledón**, the fashion-forward, found-art costume designer.

- In partnership with New York’s **American Museum of Natural History**, *Artes de Cuba* will include select displays from *¡Cuba!*, the multimedia installation that explores the rich biodiversity and cultural history of the island nation.
- A spotlight on **Cuba’s rich cinematic legacy** with a retrospective marking the 40th anniversary of the influential **Havana Film Festival**. **Ivan Giroud**, president of the Havana Film Festival, will curate and present six films highlighting the history of Cuban and Latin American cinema.

Artes de Cuba will extend beyond the Center’s performance spaces, and spill out into its halls, terraces, and to the Millennium Stage, where Cuban, Cuban American, and local artists from Washington, D.C. will be showcased. These free Millennium Stage performances will be streamed, as they are 365 days a year, on the Kennedy Center website and via Facebook. The festival will also include a free Family Day on Saturday, May 12 with activities, classes, and performances for the entire family.

“*Artes de Cuba* continues the Kennedy Center’s longstanding commitment to presenting the foremost international artists on our stages,” said Deborah F. Rutter, president of the Kennedy Center. “Cuba is a cultural powerhouse, and to present such a diverse slate of Cuban and Cuban American artists all in a two-week span is simply unprecedented. We welcome audiences from across the Washington, D.C. region and beyond to come together and learn about the Cuban people through an incredibly rich, vibrant festival.”

Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World extends the Kennedy Center’s long history of presenting international festivals. Since opening its doors as the nation’s performing arts center in 1971, the Center has presented more than 20 such festivals which have explored countries and regions throughout Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia, and Central and South America. Over the decades, millions of visitors have attended these festivals to experience and explore the richness and beauty of global arts and cultures.

Tickets for all paid *Artes de Cuba* events will go on sale to Kennedy Center Members today, December 6, and to the general public tomorrow, Thursday, December 7. A listing of festival programming is below and can be found on the Kennedy Center [website](#).

Schedule

Performance Dates	Theater	Show
May 8, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Opening Performance Featuring Omara Portuondo and Festival Highlights
MUSIC		
May 9, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Yissy Garcia & Bandancha
May 10, 2018	Terrace Theater	Havana Lyceum Orchestra with soloists Ulises Hernández and Alí Arango
May 10, 2018	KC Jazz Club	Yosvany Terry Afro-Cuban Sextet
May 11, 2018	KC Jazz Club	Zule Guerra & Quinteto Blues de Habana
May 12, 2018	Terrace Theater	Piano Marathon featuring Aldo López-Gavilán and Jorge Luis Pacheco
May 13, 2018	Terrace Theater	Aymée Nuviola with special guest Dr. Ed Calle
May 16, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Haydée Milanés & Trio with guest artist Pablo Milanés
May 17, 2018	KC Jazz Club	La Reyna y La Real
May 18, 2018	Terrace Theater	The López-Nussa Family
May 18, 2018	KC Jazz Club	Dafnis Prieto
May 19, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Los Van Van
THEATER		
May 16 & 17, 2018	Family Theater	<i>The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant: Teatro El Público</i>
May 19 & 20, 2018	Family Theater	<i>10 Million: Argos Teatro</i>
DANCE		
May 11 & 12, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Malpaso Dance Company
May 15, 2018	Terrace Theater	Compañía Irene Rodríguez
May 29 & 30, 2018	Opera House	Ballet Nacional de Cuba: <i>Don Quixote</i>

May 31–June 3, 2018	Opera House	Ballet Nacional de Cuba: <i>Giselle</i>
---------------------	-------------	--

FILM

May 12, 2018	Family Theater	Classics of Cuban Cinema
1 p.m.	<i>Memorias del Subdesarrollo</i> (1968). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea (96 min.). Copia Restaurada por Fundación de Martin Scorsese en 2015.	
4 p.m.	<i>Retrato De Teresa</i> (1979). Pastor Vega (103 min.).	
7:30 p.m.	<i>Lucía</i> (1968). Humberto Solas (160 min.).	
May 13, 2018	Family Theater	Havana Film Festival Awardees
1 p.m.	<i>Fresa y Chocolate</i> (1994). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea y Juan Carlos Tabio (108 min.). Primer Premio Coral, 1993.	
4 p.m.	<i>Suite Habana</i> (2003). Fernando Pérez (84 min.). Primer Premio Coral, 2003.	
7:30 p.m.	<i>Conducta</i> (2013). Ernesto Daranas (108 min.). Primer Premio Coral, 2014.	

*Throughout the festival Exhibition of Film Posters by Cuban Art Designers

FREE PERFORMANCES ON MILLENNIUM STAGE

Performances happen at 6 p.m. everyday

*May 9, 2018	Millennium Stage	Arte y Moda Fashion Show
*May 10, 2018	Millennium Stage	Adonis Gonzales and Mauricio Herrera
*May 11, 2018	Millennium Stage	Orchestra Miguel Faílde
*May 15, 2018	Millennium Stage	La Dame Blanche
*May 16, 2018	Millennium Stage	Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience
*May 17, 2018	Millennium Stage	Luis Faife and D.C. Cuban All Stars
*May 18, 2018	Millennium Stage	<i>Cuba Goes Tap</i> by Keyla Orozco featuring Max Pollak
*May 20, 2018	Millennium Stage	Tiempo Libre

VISUAL ARTS

Locations to be announced

*Throughout the festival	Roberto Diago
*Throughout the festival	Roberto Fabelo
*Throughout the festival	Manuel Mendive
*Throughout the festival	José Parlá
*Throughout the festival	Emilio Perez

*Throughout the festival

American Museum of Natural
History's ¡Cuba! exhibition

*Throughout the festival

The Art of Celia Ledón

Artists and performances are subject to change.

**Indicates free events*

Opening Performance Featuring Festival Highlights

May 8 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

An event in celebration of the opening of *Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World*, the opening performance will bring the vibrant culture of Cuba center stage. The performance will feature the Latin Grammy Award®–winning “Diva of Buena Vista Social Club” **Omara Portuondo**, Cubadisco Award–winning pianist **Rolando Luna**, the **Havana Lyceum Orchestra**, jazz composer and pianist **Aldo López-Gavilán**, acclaimed composer and musician **Yosvany Terry**, **Orchestra Miguel Faílde**, and others.



Yissy & BandanCHA (Havana)

May 9 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

Yissy Garcia and her band, **BandanCHA**, follow the routes of Latin jazz, funk, and electronic music. Born in Havana’s Cayo Hueso district, Garcia began her career as a member of the women’s salsa band Anacaona. Now, at the age of 25, she has already become an iconic figure of female percussion in Cuba.

Havana Lyceum Orchestra with soloists Ulises Hernández (piano) and Alí Arango (guitar)

May 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Cuba’s multi-Cubadisco Award–winning Havana Lyceum Orchestra, led by composer and pianist **Ulises Hernández** and directed by Maestro **José Antonio Méndez Padrón**, will feature Maestro **Leo Brouwer**’s “Bocetos para Piano” with pianist **Ulises Hernández** as well as *Concierto Elegíaco* for guitar and orchestra with guitarist **Alí Arango**, in his U.S. debut. Born in Havana, the composer, conductor, guitarist, researcher, and professor Leo Brouwer is one of the most well-known contemporary musicians in the world for his work that spans numerous musical genres and forms. Other Cuban composers highlighted in the program are Gisela Hernández, Carlos Fariñas, Guido López-Gavilán, Fabio Landa, and Moises Simons.

Yosvany Terry Afro-Cuban Sextet (New York)

May 10 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the KC Jazz Club

Born into an illustrious musical family in Camaguey, Cuba, **Yosvany Terry** is an internationally acclaimed saxophonist, percussionist, and cultural bearer of the Afro-Cuban tradition. While best known as a blazing improviser, he is rapidly gaining renown as a composer, bandleader, and educator with a string of high-profile awards, appointments, and commissions. He plays his original compositions, blending exquisite post-bebop and ceremonial music with rhythms and chants from Cuba and West Africa.

Zule Guerra & Quinteto Blues de Habana (Havana)

May 11 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the KC Jazz Club

Zule Guerra and the Jazz quintet **Blues de Habana**, formed in 2012, are influenced by the music of the African Diaspora and Latin America. Their work includes Latin American songs, jazz standards, and original themes in a fresh and authentic jazz language.

Piano Marathon featuring Aldo López-Gavilán and Jorge Luis Pacheco (Havana)

May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Two of Cuba's premier jazz pianists join forces for a singular concert. **Aldo López-Gavilán** excels in both the classical and jazz worlds as a recitalist, concerto soloist, chamber music collaborator, and performer of his own electrifying jazz compositions. López-Gavilán has also played a very active role in the development of cultural exchange between the U.S. and Cuba. **Jorge Luis Pacheco** is a fiery young pianist with "flying hands." He has performed all over the world, including prominent jazz clubs, such as Dizzy's Jazz at Lincoln Center, and festivals, such as the Blue Note Jazz Festival in New York. A passionate, extravagant, exciting entertainer, Pacheco is a virtuoso pianist, composer, arranger, percussionist, and vocalist.

Aymée Nuviola (Havana) with special guest Dr. Ed Calle (Miami)

May 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Voted one of Miami's 25 most influential figures in 2014, Grammy® nominated, multi-genre artist, **Aymée Nuviola**, will present her real-time improvisation, wide range of up-tempo Cuban timba dance, and delicately crafted ballads in a collaborative musical performance with **Dr. Ed Calle**, one of the most recorded saxophonists in history. Calle, a five-time Grammy® nominee and winner of the 2015 Latin Grammy Award® for Best Instrumental Album, has been featured on more than 1,200 albums and almost 9,000 singles.

Haydée Milanés & Trio with guest artist Pablo Milanés (Havana)

May 16 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

Showcasing a style often described as shy, sultry, and jazzy, **Haydée Milanés** is an influential part of the Cuban fusion scene. She began playing piano at the age of six and singing at the Manuel Saumell Conservatory, where she studied music theory and choral direction at the Amadeo Roldán Conservatory. Widely known as "Pablito," Haydée Milanés's father **Pablo Milanés** is a singer, songwriter, guitar player, and one of the founders of the Cuban *nueva trova*. By the age of 15, he was active in "bohemian" musical circles and associated with the "filin" musicians. He has issued more than 40 solo records, and many more in collaboration with other artists from Cuba, Latin America, and Spain.

La Reyna y La Real (Havana)

May 17 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the KC Jazz Club

La Reyna (Reyna Mercedes Hernández Sandoval) and **La Real** (Yadira Pintado Lazcano) emerged as a duo in 2012. Their music explores the versatility of rap by merging it with other genres and styles of music with a Cuban flare. Their partnership aims to show a female image in a male-dominated genre.

The López-Nussa Family (Havana)

May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

In a rare joint performance, the López-Nussa Family will present the impressive artistry of **Harold López-Nussa** (pianist), **Ernan López-Nussa** (pianist), **Ruy López-Nussa** (percussionist), and **Ruy Adrian López-Nussa** (drummer). Harold López-Nussa alone has performed in many of Cuba's most important theaters and worked with jazz musicians such as Chucho Valdés, David Sánchez, Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, and Christian Scott. Collectively, the López-Nussa family has built a reputation as composers, arrangers, and interpreters, performing at venues and festivals all over the world.

Dafnis Prieto (Miami)

May 18 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the KC Jazz Club

Born in Santa Clara, Cuban percussionist **Dafnis Prieto's** revolutionary drumming techniques and compositions have had a powerful impact on the Latin and Jazz music scenes, nationally and internationally. A classically trained musician who at an early age absorbed the multifaceted percussive traditions of his native Cuba, Prieto transposes elements from his Afro-Cuban musical heritage incorporating congas, timbales, and the layered rhythmic patterns of rumba and *son*. His playing is characterized by a finely calibrated command of textures and nuances and an ability to execute highly complex, polyrhythmic structures with extraordinary speed and precision. Through his recordings and compositions, his leadership of numerous ensembles, and additional projects involving dance, film, and opera, Prieto is infusing Latin jazz with a bold new energy and sound.

Los Van Van (Havana)

May 19 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

Led for many years by the late bassist Juan Formell, Los Van Van is one of the most recognized musical groups in Cuba today. Formell and former band members Changuito and Pupy are some of the most important figures in contemporary Cuban music. Initially their sound was a fusion of *son montuno*, rumba, and North American rock and pop. Later, the band incorporated funk, disco, and Hip Hop, as well as salsa. These influences gave rise to a style known as *songo*, and later timba. The band received the 2000 Latin Grammy Award® for the album *Van Van is Here (Llegó Van Van)*.



The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant

Teatro El Público (Havana)

Author: Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Director: Carlos Díaz

May 16 & 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Theater

Teatro El Público will present their theatrical reinterpretation of playwright Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*. The company's irreverent founding director, **Carlos Díaz**, one of Latin America's most well-known theater directors, brings his uniquely post-modernist Cuban sensibility to this award-winning, actor-driven production, in which the three main female characters are all played by male actors. The production showcases the unique sensibilities that have characterized Díaz and Teatro El Público since their emergence on the Cuban stage, offering new meaning to Fassbinder's tale.

Since its inception in 1992, Cuba's Teatro El Público has premiered more than 40 plays and has become a Havana institution. Díaz, an acclaimed director who won the National Theater Award in 2015, has been the subject of numerous scholarly works and is widely known for his ability to handle complex and sensitive dialogue without missing a drop of humor. *In Spanish with English supertitles.*

10 Million

Argos Teatro (Havana)

Author and Director: Carlos Celdrán

May 19 & 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Theater

10 Million is a portrayal of a generation, an autobiographical theater piece by Argos Teatro's founder, **Carlos Celdrán**, depicting his experience as a child and adolescent in Cuba, navigating his relationship with his parents, his links with history, and the tumultuous events that shaped his life. *10 Million*, awarded the 2017 Cuban Critic Award, was conceived as a personal diary and took almost a decade to develop for the stage. The production will feature Argos Teatro company members Caleb Casas, Daniel Romero, Maridelmis Marín, and Waldo Franco.

Argos Teatro, founded by Celdrán in 1996, was established as a laboratory for actors and students in search of a common theatrical language. The techniques and methodologies they developed have created a unique and memorable stamp recognized by critics and audiences alike. Many of the actors have gone on to direct their own works and train actors at art schools in Cuba and around the world. Celdrán and company members have received numerous awards, including the National Theater Award in 2016. *In Spanish with English supertitles.*



Malpaso Dance Company (Havana)

May 11 & 12 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

In less than five years since its establishment in 2012, Malpaso Dance Company has already become one of the most sought-after Cuban dance companies with a growing international profile. Emphasizing a collaborative creative process, the 14 member company is committed to working with top international choreographers while also nurturing new voices in Cuban choreography, music, costume design, and lighting design. Based in Havana and with a growing international profile, the company is an associate company of Joyce Theater Productions and, together, has commissioned original works from a number of prominent North American choreographers. The engagement will feature the works *Indomitable Waltz* (choreography by Aszure Barton; music by Alexandre Balanescu, Michael Nyman, and Nils Frahm), *Ocaso* (choreography by Osnel Delgado in collaboration with the dancers; music by Arturo O’Farrill), and *24 Hours and a Dog* (choreography by Osnel Delgado in collaboration with the dancers; music by Arturo O’Farrill).

Compañía Irene Rodríguez (Havana)

May 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Focused on creating and exploring new avenues to evolve flamenco dance, dancer and choreographer **Irene Rodríguez** melds the fiery passion and exhilarating footwork of flamenco with a unique Afro-Cuban flair. In just six years, the company has established itself as a leading promoter of Spanish dance. Among her many honors, Rodríguez has been awarded First Prize in the Ibero-American Choreography Competition “Alicia Alonso” in 2012, and an award from the Author’s Foundation of the Spanish General Society of Authors and Editors (SGAE). She holds a masters degree in Theoretical Dance Studies, is a member of UNESCO’s International Council of Dance (CID), and also works as a choreography consultant and regisseur for the Ballet Nacional de Cuba.

Ballet Nacional de Cuba (Havana)

Alicia Alonso, Artistic Director

Opera House

***Don Quixote*, May 29 & 30 at 7:30 p.m. (Minkus/Alonso, after Petipa)**

***Giselle*, May 31–June 3 at 1:30 & 7:30 p.m. (Adam/Alonso, based on Coralli and Perrot)**

With the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra

Internationally renowned Ballet Nacional de Cuba made its landmark U.S. debut at the Kennedy Center 40 years ago. Last seen at the Kennedy Center in 2011, the company returns to the Opera House stage with two extraordinary ballets—Artistic Director Alicia Alonso’s definitive staging of the romantic classic *Giselle*, with choreography after Jean Coralli and

Jules Perrot, and its acclaimed version of *Don Quixote*, choreographed by Alicia Alonso after Marius Petipa.

Admired for their beautiful footwork, strong dancers, and impeccable technique, the company has embraced a tradition of romantic and classical excellence since Alicia Alonso, Fernando Alonso, and Alberto Alonso (the first professional dancer in Cuba) founded it in 1948. The Ballet Nacional de Cuba has established itself as the highest expression of the Cuban school of ballet, based on a cultural legacy that spans several centuries of tradition in theatrical dance combined with a unique character infused with the essential features of the national culture. Alonso, who is one of the most revered dancers within ballet, danced with American Ballet Theatre, and among her many leading roles, is famous for her portrayal of the title role in *Giselle*.



Retrospectiva 40 años del Festival de Cine de La Habana

Havana Film Festival 40-Year Retrospective

May 12 & 13 in the Family Theater

The International Festival of the New Latin American Film in Havana (aka Havana Film Festival) takes place every year during the first half of December. The Festival presents feature productions, documentaries, animated films, and short films from Latin America and countries all across the world. From the late 1970s to its ongoing success in the present day, this festival enchants audiences from all over the world and attracts numerous producers, directors, actors, and enthusiastic fans to Havana. Ivan Giroud, president of the Havana Film Festival is considered one of the most qualified specialists in Latin American Cinema. For *Artes de Cuba*, Giroud selected six films to highlight the history of the Havana Film Festival, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2018.

May 12: Classicos del Cine Cubano (Classics of Cuban Cinema)

1 p.m. – *Memorias del Subdesarrollo* (1968). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea (96 min.). Copia

Restaurada por Fundación de Martin Scorsese en 2015.

4 p.m. – *Retrato De Teresa* (1979). Pastor Vega (103 min.).

7:30 p.m. – *Lucía* (1968). Humberto Solas (160 min.).

May 13: Premios del Festival de Cine de la Habana (Havana Film Festival Awardees)

1 p.m.– *Fresa y Chocolate* (1994). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea y Juan Carlos Tabío (108 min.).

Primer Premio Coral, 1993.

4 p.m. – *Suite Habana* (2003). Fernando Pérez (84 min.). Primer Premio Coral, 2003.

7:30 p.m. – *Conducta* (2013). Ernesto Daranas (108 min.). Primer Premio Coral, 2014.

Exhibition of Film Posters by Cuban Art Designers

An exhibition of film posters—a signature art form in Cuba—will include 25 original posters from 1964 to 2015, featuring movies from Cuba, Poland, Japan, Russia, France, Italy, and the U.S. The works by different generations of Cuban designers were selected in collaboration with Sara Vega, responsible for the posters archives in the Cinemateca de Cuba. In addition, *Artes de Cuba* will offer a very special treat: audiences will be able to enjoy twelve new posters created by young Cuban designers. This initiative is in partnership with the project “CartelON,” a Cuban program implemented in 2016 to promote graphic design in Cuba, encourage silkscreen production, and support designers beginning their work in serigraphy—a tradition that Cuban artists want to rescue and keep alive.



Ongoing

Roberto Diago (Havana)

At just 37, Havana-born **Roberto Diago** has long been one of Cuba’s most critically acclaimed and commercially lauded artists. With a focus on raw subject matter, including deep reflections on race, slavery, and religion, Diago works across media, including paintings, sculptures, and mixed media and found-art installations. The celebrated artist, whose riveting juxtapositions of text and image have drawn comparisons to American painters Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ed Ruscha, will debut a new installation as part of *Artes de Cuba*.

Roberto Fabelo (Havana)

Described as “one of Cuba’s premier artists” (*Dallas Morning News*), painter, sculptor, and illustrator **Roberto Fabelo** is a member of “the generation of sure hope” that emerged in the 1980s and is credited with reinvigorating the Cuban creative environment. Known for the absurdist humor embedded in his watercolors and sculptures, Fabelo is a recipient of the prestigious *Alejo Carpentier* medal, Cuba’s highest honor in recognition of outstanding artistic achievement. *Select works as part of Artes de Cuba to be announced.*

Manuel Mendive (Havana)

Considered to be the most important Cuban artist living today, **Manuel Mendive** is one of the leading Afro-Cuban artists to emerge from Cuba. Working across media, including paint, wood, and organic matter, Mendive’s art is strongly influenced by the Santería religion, and expresses the ways in which African culture have shaped Cuban national identity and culture. Mendive will create six new sculptures for *Artes de Cuba*.

José Parlá (New York)

Born in Miami, Florida to Cuban immigrants, **José Parlá** is a critically acclaimed, multidisciplinary artist whose oeuvre spans painting, large-scale murals, photography, video, and sculpture. Among his many public works is a commission by One World Trade Center for his monumental mural painting, *ONE: Union of the Senses*, the largest painting of its kind in New York. *Parlá* will create a new piece for *Artes de Cuba*.

Emilio Perez (New York)

Rhythm, movement, and intuition are in abundance in **Emilio Perez's** works, revealing an interest in music, as well as a fascination with the forces of nature. The New York born, Cuban American painter and muralist asserts a vivid, graphic style that has lit up Times Square as part of the *Midnight Moment* project in 2016. Perez is well known among Cubans for his 65-foot, movable mural, created in 2015 as part of the 12th Havana Biennial, which holds the distinction of being the largest mural in Cuba. Perez will create a new piece for *Artes de Cuba*.

¡Cuba!

Collaboration with the American Natural History Museum, New York (amnh.org)

Cuba is a place of exceptional biodiversity and cultural richness. Technically an archipelago of more than 4,000 islands and keys, Cuba is the largest island nation in the Caribbean and one of the region's most ecologically diverse countries. The Kennedy Center will present special displays adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History in close collaboration with scientists at the Cuban National Museum of Natural History. This close look at Cuba's unique natural history and traditions offers visitors fresh insights into the island nation located just 94 miles from Florida's shores.

The Art of Celia Ledón (Havana)

On the "frontier of fashion" (*Vanity Fair*), Cuban designer **Celia Ledón** fuses fashion and art in showstopping creations that have graced haute couture runways, theater stages, and art films. This installation will feature select costume art by Ledón, including a work commissioned for *Artes de Cuba*.

Artes de Cuba: From the Island to The World (festival logo)

The logo for the *Artes de Cuba* festival was specially designed by **Giselle Monzón Calero**. Born in Villa Clara, Cuba, in 1979, Monzón graduated from Havana's Higher Institute of Design (ISDI) and currently lives and works in Havana. Monzón primarily designs promotional posters for theaters, festivals, and films. Her work has appeared in solo and group shows in Cuba, Switzerland, France, Germany, and other European countries.

FREE PERFORMANCES ON THE MILLENNIUM STAGE

As part of *Artes de Cuba*, the Kennedy Center will spotlight Cuban and Cuban American artists, including those based locally, in 13 free performances on the Millennium Stage. Highlights Include:

Arte Y Moda Fashion Show (Havana)

Celebrate the art and style of Cuba with a fashion show. This extraordinary combination of imagination, fine art, and design features costumes created by Cuban designers who take their inspiration from paintings and sculptures by Cuban masters.

La Dame Blanche (Paris, France)

With her explosive mix of Hip Hop, nu cumbia, reggae, and Latin beats, Cuban singer, flutist, and percussionist Yaite Ramos—aka **La Dame Blanche**—delivers powerful and compelling sounds that summon the spirits. La Dame Blanche comes to Washington following international tours that included stops at SXSW, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, New York's Summerstage, France's Babel Med Music, and Germany's Rudolstadt Festival.

CUBA GOES TAP by Keyla Orozco featuring Max Pollak (Washington, D.C. / New York)

Created by Cuban Dutch composer **Keyla Orozco** and featuring acclaimed tap-dancer **Max Pollack**, *Cuba Goes Tap* merges American rhythm tap with Afro-Cuban music and dance. The central focus of the program is Orozco's *Traveling Shoe Stories*, a work for tap dancer and chamber ensemble, in which Cuban and Venezuelan folk music, western classical tradition, pop, jazz, improvisation, and tap come together. Written and improvised music and dance have equal roles in the show, which includes works by Cuban composers from the 19th and 20th centuries, reimagined alongside tap improvisation.

Tiempo Libre (Miami)

Three-time Grammy® nominated **Tiempo Libre** are true modern heirs to the rich musical tradition of their native Cuba. Celebrated for their sophisticated performances of timba music, an irresistible, dance-inducing mix of Latin jazz and Cuban *son*, Tiempo Libre has introduced Cuban music to new audiences through appearances on shows such as *The Tonight Show*, *Live from Lincoln Center*, and *Dancing With the Stars*, and through concert performances at many of the world's major venues.

Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience (New York)

The Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience, a five-piece ensemble led by Dizzy Gillespie's bassist John Lee, showcases the unique rhythms and well-loved melodies Gillespie's oeuvre of Cuban bebop, or Cu-Bop. The great trumpeter developed the style with Cuban percussionist Chano Pozo in the 1940s and 1950s, and the Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience musicians carry forward his legacy today.

Luis Faife and D.C. Cuban All Stars (Washington, D.C.)

An Afro-Cuban saxophonist of panache and volatility, **Luis Faife** is a regular presence in the club scenes both in D.C. and New York. He has maintained a personal artistic aesthetic that unites his upbringing in Holguin, Cuba, with the American jazz that has always captured his imagination. Under Faife's direction, D.C. Cuban All Stars bring live Cuban Timba music to the D.C. area and perform a variety of traditional and contemporary Cuban rhythms.

Adonis Gonzalez (Atlanta) & Mauricio Herrera (New York)

Classical keys and Cuban rhythms collide when Latin Grammy®-nominated pianist **Adonis Gonzalez** and Grammy® nominee and master percussionist **Mauricio Herrera** join forces for a one-of-a-kind mashup.

Orquesta Miguel Faílde (Matanzas)

Led by flutist Ethiel Fernandez Faílde—grandson of namesake bandleader Miguel Faílde—Orquesta Miguel Faílde celebrates Cuba’s *danzon*—the national dance and music of Cuba. In addition to presenting traditional and well-loved tunes, the group also premieres *danzons* of contemporary composers, preserving their nation’s musical history while appealing to new generations.

FAMILY DAY

Saturday, May 12

Multiple spaces throughout the Center

The Family Day will feature numerous activities including a “family parade,” rumba and salsa classes, musical instrument demonstrations, domino tables, an interactive Cuban baseball activity, and much more.

Ticket Information

Tickets for all paid *Artes de Cuba* events are now on sale to Kennedy Center Members and will go on sale to the general public on Thursday, December 7. For more information please visit the Kennedy Center website, in-person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, or call (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324.

Funding Credits

*The Presenting Underwriter of Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World is the **HRH Foundation**, with major support provided by **David and Alice Rubenstein**.*

Additional support is provided by Amalia Perea Mahoney and William Mahoney.

International Programming at the Kennedy Center is made possible through the generosity of the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts.

*The Millennium Stage is brought to you by Target and
The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.*

The Millennium Stage was created and underwritten by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs to make the performing arts accessible to everyone in fulfillment of the Kennedy Center's mission to its community and the nation.

Additional funding for the Millennium Stage is provided by Kim Engel and Family, The Gessner Family Foundation, The Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc., The Meredith Foundation, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Dr. Deborah Rose and Dr. Jan A.J. Stolwijk, and the Millennium Stage Endowment Fund.

The Millennium Stage Endowment Fund was made possible by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs, Fannie Mae Foundation, the Kimsey Endowment, Gilbert and Jaylee Mead, Mortgage

Bankers Association of America and other anonymous gifts to secure the future of the Millennium Stage.

*Major support for educational programs at the Kennedy Center is provided by **David and Alice Rubenstein** through the Rubenstein Arts Access Program.*

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

Discover the [Kennedy Center](#) on social media:



#ArtesdeCuba
#KennedyCenter

###

PRESS CONTACTS

Brendan Padgett
(202) 416-8004
bepadgett@kennedy-center.org

Chanel Williams
(202) 416-8447
cpwilliams@kennedy-center.org

TICKETS & INFORMATION

(202) 467-4600
(800) 444-1324
www.kennedy-center.org